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PRESS RELEASE –
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Press Release

**SUPERSEDING INDICTMENT ISSUED BY FEDERAL GRAND JURY TODAY AGAINST
THIRTEEN DEFENDANTS CHARGED WITH HEROIN TRAFFICKING**

**ALLEGED CONSPIRATORS WERE ARRESTED
IN WILMINGTON AND PHILADELPHIA**

United States Attorney Colm F. Connolly announced that a federal grand jury in Wilmington, Delaware, issued a superseding indictment today against thirteen defendants. The federal charges are the result of an ongoing multi-jurisdictional investigation by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) offices in Wilmington and Philadelphia, and the Wilmington Police Department (WPD). The investigation is focusing on heroin trafficking in Wilmington that is originating in Philadelphia.

The superseding indictment charges Anthony Copeland, 27, Kevin White, 27, Alberto Olmo-Estrada, 28, Heriberto Lozada, 40, Charneise French, 24, Jesus Sarraga Solona, 24, Diostenes Dalmasi, 27, Fabio Rondon-Jose, 29, Gregorio Hernandez-Rondon, 31, Enrique Cordero-Cortello, 30, Fe Del Carmen Holguen, 35, Yohanna Ortega, 21, and Angel Colon, 21. The latter eight defendants were arrested on the evening of December 16, 2004, in Philadelphia and will face drug conspiracy charges in federal court in Wilmington, Delaware. Olmo-Estrada

was arrested on December 16, 2004, off of Interstate-95 on the 202 southbound ramp in Wilmington, Delaware. Inside the van he was driving, officers located heroin with an approximate net weight of 75 grams, prepacked for sale throughout Wilmington.

U.S. Attorney Connolly stated that “our office will continue to focus federal resources in conjunction with local law enforcement resources to address the problem of the heroin trade in the City of Wilmington. The superseding indictment returned today against the thirteen defendants participating in the conspiracy demonstrates the commitment of law enforcement not only to arrest and prosecute the local distributors but also their Philadelphia-based suppliers.” U.S. Attorney Connolly praised the enormous commitment of resources by Wilmington-based DEA agents, who received crucial assistance from DEA agents and state/federal DEA task force officers in Philadelphia during the investigation. In addition, U.S. Attorney Connolly singled-out for special praise the Wilmington Police Department’s Vice Unit for having focused investigative resources on the Riverside heroin trade and for having committed enormous officer time and man-power to assist the DEA in this investigation.

The superseding indictment¹ alleges that on or about September 21, 2004, up to and including December 16, 2004, all of the defendants conspired to engaged in the distribution of more than one kilogram of mixtures and substances containing heroin. Documents on file in the District Court describe the conspiracy: Copeland and White sold heroin to their customers in Wilmington, many of whom were themselves drug dealers in Wilmington or the greater Wilmington area. Charneise French participated in this enterprise by managing a residence in the Riverside section of the City of Wilmington at 2706 Bowers Street, from where some sales to

¹ An indictment is only an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Copeland and White's customers were made. Heriberto Lozada and Alberto Olmo-Estrada supplied pre-packaged heroin to Copeland and White from 1331 Howell Street in Philadelphia and/or from Buildings F and G at 8221-8223 Roosevelt Boulevard in Philadelphia and then returned with the proceeds to 9352 Neil Road, Apartment A, in Philadelphia. Lozada and Olmo-Estrada repeatedly met Copeland and White at a location in Wilmington, Delaware, near Interstate-95, where they repeatedly made deliveries of heroin to Copeland and White over the course of their conspiracy, that included a delivery on December 10, 2004, of over 100 net grams of heroin, or over 5,000 retail size bags of heroin, which were brand-labeled "Death Row". The other eight defendants participated in the conspiracy by working in drug houses in Philadelphia where the heroin is packaged and branded for sale before being shipped to Wilmington.

Each defendant faces a maximum term of life imprisonment, with a minimum-mandatory term of ten years imprisonment, on the conspiracy charge.

United States Magistrate Judge Mary Pat Thyngne has ordered that ten of the defendants be detained without bail pending trial. Two defendants, French and Holguin, have been released on bail, and one defendant (Lozada) is a fugitive.

Defendants Anthony Copeland, Kevin White and Charneise French reside in Wilmington, Delaware. All of the other defendants are known or believed to reside in Philadelphia.

For more information, call AUSA Adam Safwat at 302-573-6277 ext. 126.

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